

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

I. Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Claim 1, 10, and 12 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 10, and 12.

II. Claim Amendments

Each of claims 1-13 were amended for clarity. The phrase “characterised in that” has been replaced with “wherein.” Reference numbers have been removed. Claims 10 and 12 have been amended to clearly show that they are independent. The limitations of claim 1, to which claim 10 originally referred, have been included in amended claim 10. No new matter was added in these amendments, and they were not made in view of any prior art known by the Applicant.

III. Objections to the Specification

The proper language and format for an abstract were noted by the Examiner. Although no objection was made, the abstract has been amended for clarity.

IV. Objections to the Claims

Claims 5-13 were objected to as being in improper multiple dependent form. Claims 3, 5, 6, and 10 have been amended to depend from only one claim each. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection and full consideration of claims 5-13 are respectfully requested.

V. Rejections under 35 U.S.C § 112

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 2 has been amended to clarify the present invention. No new matter was added by the amendment. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

VI. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102U.S. Patent No. 3,758,361

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,656,018 ("Maher"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a brush holder plate with cartridges and brushes guided in the cartridges. The brushes are spring loaded in a radial direction towards a central aperture in the brush holder plate. The cartridges are disposed such that they can be displaced on the brush holder plate from a radially outer preassembly position into a radially inner final assembly position. Independent claims 10 and 12, which were not considered by the Examiner, both recite a brush holder plate having all of the limitations of claim 1.

Maher discloses a brush holder assembly for use in electric motors. Specifically, with reference to Figure 1, the cartridges 20 are inserted into openings 18 (column 2, lines 1-7). In contrast, claim 1 recites that the cartridges are on a brush holder plate, such as that shown in Figure 2 of the present application. Item 30 in Figure 1 of Maher, to which the Examiner refers to as the brush holder plate, is merely an abutment locking against longitudinal movement within the opening 18 (column 2, lines 36-43). Maher does not disclose a brush holder plate as recited in claim 1, and accordingly, cannot anticipate claim 1. Further, assuming *arguendo* that the

abutment 30 could be considered to be a brush holder plate, the abutment 30 only interacts with a single cartridge, not multiple cartridges, as recited in claim 1.

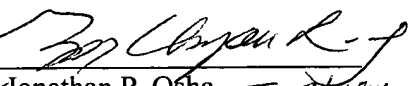
In view of above, Maher fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in claims 1, 10, and 12. Thus, claims 1, 10, and 12 are patentable over Maher. Claims 2-4, which depend from claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons. Further, dependent claims 5-9, 11, and 13, which were not considered by the Examiner, are also allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully traversed.

VII. Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 17102/008001).

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
for Jonathan P. Osha *T. Chyan Liang*
Registration No.: 33,986 #48,885
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant